

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of producing batches of micro particles, comprising ~~the following steps:~~

- a) affixing a plastic substrate sheet having a metal layer thereon to a support;
- b) ~~cutting the substrate sheet by means of a laser device to define a plurality of micro particles;~~
- ~~c) either before, after or during the cutting of the substrate sheet, marking the a region of the substrate sheet defining each micro particle by means of evaporating the metal layer by laser action to form digits, said digits a laser device with a code or other identifying marking, said code or other identifying marking being unique to that particular batch of micro particles to uniquely identify that batch;~~
- c) cutting the substrate sheet by means of a laser device to define a plurality of microparticles, said step of cutting occurring before, during or after said step of marking; and
- d) removing the micro particles from the support.

Claim 2 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein a single laser device is used for cutting the substrate sheet and marking the micro particles.

Claim 3 (Original): A method according to claim 1, wherein separate laser devices are used for respectively cutting the substrate sheet and marking the micro particles.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~code or other identifying marking is~~ digits are discernible by means of a contrast or colour, reflectance or light transmission.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate sheet is affixed to the support by means of a suitable adhesive.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the support comprises a flat sheet of inert material.

Claim 10 (Original): A method according to claim 9, wherein the support is formed from glass or a suitable plastic.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein the micro particles are removed from the support by the use of a suitable solvent.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, including the further step of suspending the micro particles in a suitable medium to allow the micro particles to be painted or sprayed onto goods to be marked.

Claim 13 (Original): A method according to claim 12, wherein the medium in which the micro particles are suspended contains an anti oxidant.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein, during steps (b) and (c), said support, and said substrate sheet affixed thereto, is mounted beneath one or more fixed laser devices such that the support is movable in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the one or more laser devices.

Claim 15 (Original): A method according to claim 14, wherein the movement of the support with respect to the one or more laser devices is controlled by means of a computer.